Development of an Autodiagnostic Adaptive Precision Trainer for Decision Making (ADAPT-DM)

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The Autodiagnostic Adaptive Precision Trainer for Decision Making (ADAPT-DM) is a framework for adaptive training of decision making skills. The training challenge is that decision making behavior is mostly unobservable with traditional behavioral measures, which generally only give access to outcome performance. This article describes the ADAPT-DM framework, which utilizes physiological sensors, specifically electroencephalography and eye tracking, to detect indicators of implicit cognitive processing relevant to decision making and accomplish the granularity required to pinpoint and remediate process level issues. Using these advanced measures, the trainee's performance on these cognitive processes can be assessed in real time and used to drive smart adaptations that individualize training. As a proof of concept, the ADAPT-DM framework was conceptually applied to the contact evaluation task in submarine navigation. Simulated data from 75 students, grouped into three levels of expertise (novice, intermediate, and expert), were used for principal component analysis to identify skill dimensions that reflect proficiency levels. Then ADAPT-DM's composite diagnosis was performed, which uses an expertise model that integrates automated expert modeling for automated student evaluation machine learning models with eye tracking and electroencephalography data to assess which proficiency level the simulated students actions were most similar to. Based on additional assessments, the diagnostic engine is able to determine whether the student (a) performs to criterion, in which case training could be accelerated, (b) is in an optimal learning state, or (c) is in a nonoptimal learning state for which remediation or mitigation are needed. Using root cause analysis techniques, the ADAPT-DM process level measures then allow instructors to pinpoint where in the decision making process breakdowns occur, so that optimal training adaptations can be implemented.

Key words: Adaptive training; decision making skills; expertise modeling; learning state.

I n highly dynamic work situations, such as a submarine crew environment, individuals are required to function with high levels of decision making (DM) skill proficiency while in an environment marked by unforeseen threats, complex data streams, and high levels of uncertainty. The time typically available for training such DM skills is limited; therefore, there is a need for systems that can accelerate skill development, bringing trainees up to speed more quickly. Yet, existing training systems lack the capability to provide real-time adaptive training that can ensure effective and efficient training. An opportunity exists to precisely assess trainee performance and adapt the training experience to accelerate the learning process by (a) identifying and mitigating times when a trainee is in a nonoptimal learning state and time is being wasted, (b) identifying the root cause of performance deficiencies to allow feedback to be tailored to trainee-specific decrements, and (c) adapting training with increasing levels of trainee expertise to ensure efficient utilization of training time. The challenge with respect to assessing

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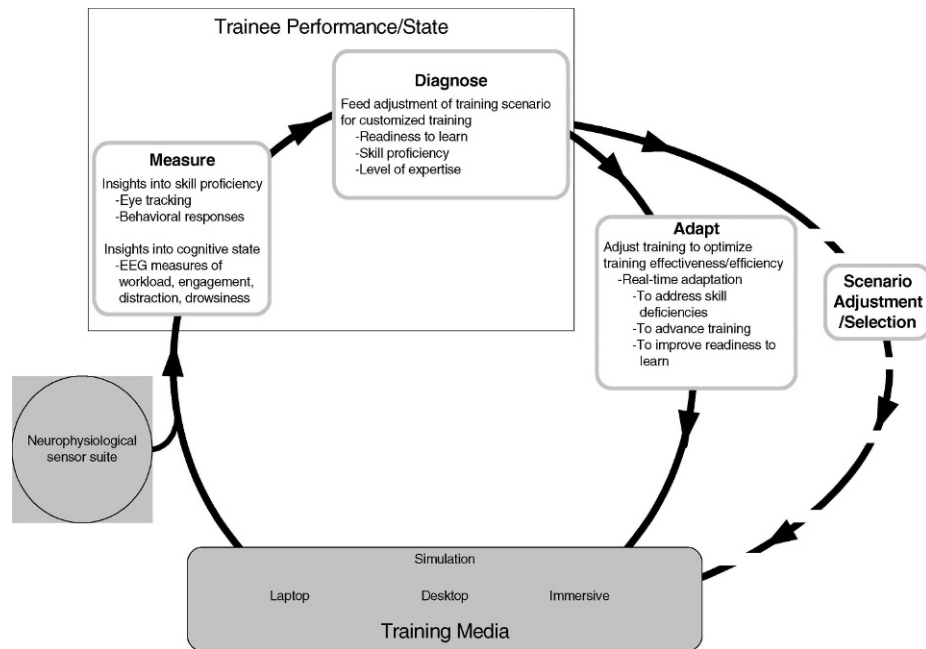Prescribed by ANSI Std Z39-18

Figure 1. The Autodiagnostic Adaptive Precision Trainer for Decision Making (ADAPT-DM) framework.

the DM process during training, specifically, is that much of DM behavior is unobservable and thus difficult to measure with traditional behavioral measures, which generally only give access to outcome performance (Klein 1998). Outcome measures, such as decision outcomes, do not give the granularity needed to pinpoint and remediate process level issues. Implicit indicators are needed, such as visual scan patterns (i.e., how a decision maker is collecting information and what information is being considered), key cues entering into the decision, sources of distraction or confusion, or changes in cognitive processing that affect readiness to learn (e.g., fatigue, disengagement) (Klein and Hoffman 1992; Macklin et al. 2002). To increase assessment granularity for cognitive processes, we must (a) capture and evaluate perceptual and cognitive processes relevant to DM, (b) analyze the trainee's performance on these cognitive processes *in real time*, and (c) use these data to drive smart adaptations that are grounded in training science. As such there is a need for physiological-sensor–based real-time adaptive training.

The Autodiagnostic Adaptive Precision Trainer for Decision Making (ADAPT-DM) is a framework that aims to address this training gap. The framework is composed of three components necessary to ensure precision training: measurement, diagnosis, and adaptation *(Figure 1)*.

- The measurement component allows for the incorporation of a broad range of data collection tools, such as system collected, self-report, instructor assessment, behavioral, physiological,

and neurophysiological measurement to gain a comprehensive understanding of trainee performance and state.
- By incorporating diagnosis methods, such as root cause analysis, expert comparison, and error pattern analysis, the diagnosis component analyzes these data to direct remediation and facilitate real-time training.
- Based on the diagnosis, the adaptation component triggers adaptations strategies designed to address performance and state issues through real-time adaptations, after-action feedback, and selection of future training content.

ADAPT-DM theoretical foundation

"Expertise is the key factor in decision making in natural environments." (Lipshitz et al. 2001)

Two key models serve as the theoretical foundation for ADAPT-DM: the Stimulus-Hypothesis-Option-Response (SHOR) model (Wohl 1981) and the Skills-Rules-Knowledge (SRK) model (Rasmussen 1983). Similar to other contemporary models relevant to tactical DM, such as Endsley's (1995) situation awareness model and Klein's recognition primed decision-making model (Lipshitz et al. 2001), the SHOR model dissects the DM process into four distinct steps.

- *Stimulus:* In this step a decision maker gathers, recalls, filters, and aggregates information.

Table 1. SRK types of performance.

Type of performance	Level of cognitive control	Description of performance	Expertise typically associated
Skill-based	No conscious, cognitive control, highly automated	Routine activities conducted automatically that do not require conscious allocation of attention	High level of expertise
Rule-based	Low level conscious cognitive control	Activities controlled by a set of stored rules or procedures	Medium level of expertise
Knowledge-based	High level of conscious cognitive control	Novel situations are presented for which a plan must be developed to solve a problem	Low level of expertise

- *Hypothesis:* Here, the decision maker creates and evaluates hypotheses about the environment around them and selects the most plausible hypothesis.
- *Option:* The decision maker creates and evaluates decision options for how he or she should respond based on the hypothesis selected and potential positive and negative outcomes.
- *Response:* The decision maker plans, organizes, and executes the response selected.

This DM process becomes abridged as a decision maker develops expertise. According to Rasmussen's (1983) SRK model *(Table 1)*, as expertise develops a performer can successfully complete the decision task with greater levels of automaticity and hence lower levels of cognitive control.

Taken together, these models (Rasmussen 1983; Wohl 1981) suggest that as performers build expertise, they move from purely knowledge-based performance to skill-based performance *(Figure 2)*. For novices, situations are generally novel, and they have to perform the entire DM process, analyzing the environment and creating a hypothesis of what the pattern of cues means for the situation, then generating and evaluating potential responses. As expertise develops with experience base, the trainee starts to develop the ability to recognize patterns of cues, which can be successfully associated with existing mental models of a situation, so that known response rules associated with these familiar situations can be triggered. Thus, the DM process becomes abbreviated as the trainee quickly recognizes a situation and applies a preprogrammed rule. With high levels of expertise, the DM process becomes almost automated, wherein an expert reacts to familiar cues with an almost "wired response" based on almost immediate (and possibly parallel) recognition and evaluation of the situation.

These models provide a framework for evaluating at a very granular level where in the DM process breakdowns are occurring and at what level of expertise the decision maker is operating. Expertise is the key factor in DM in natural environments (Lipshitz et al. 2001), and the ability to identify level of expertise will allow a more comprehensive understanding of DM performance, including why performance breakdowns occur and what kind of scenario adaptations are most useful to address performance problems.

ADAPT-DM measurement component

For the first component of the ADAPT-DM framework—the measurement component—the essential question is what to measure. Within the natural-
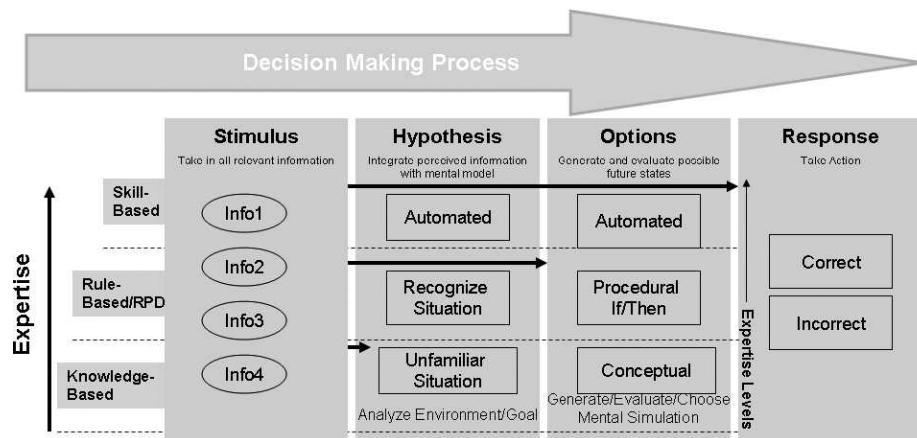

Figure 2. Adaptive DM model.

Table 2. Cognitive readiness problem states.

Problem state	Rationale/literature support
Workload	When workload is low and trainees are bored, they pay less attention, resulting in lower retention and decreased ability to apply information (Small, Dodge, and Jiang 1996).
	When workload is high, divided attention results, which is associated with large reductions in memory performance and small increases in reaction time during encoding, and small or no reductions in memory during recall, but comparatively larger increases in reaction time (Craik et al. 1996).
Engagement	Low levels of engagement indicate that a trainee is not actively engaged with some aspect of the training environment (Dorneich et al. 2004).
Distraction	Even if distraction does not decrease the overall level of learning, it can result in the acquisition of knowledge that can be applied less flexibly in new situations (Foerde, Knowlton, and Poldrack 2006).
Drowsiness	Drowsiness can causes lapses in attention and performance, as well as microsleeps (Neri et al. 2007).

istic decision making (Lipshitz et al. 2001) literature, some researchers have attempted to identify more granular measures of DM skills than performance time and accuracy by considering such measures as number of options considered (Klein and Peio 1989); however, few have considered how to operationalize real-time DM performance measurement and diagnosis. For example, Elliot et al. (2007) presented four metric categories linked to perceptual and cognitive skills associated with natural decision making, including speed (e.g., reaction time, response time), accuracy (e.g., accuracy of response), efficiency (e.g., shortest path to success), and planning (e.g., proactive actions taken). Although these measures provide some level of assessment of the DM process, they are not sufficiently granular to pinpoint where breakdowns in DM performance occur to provide real-time adaptations to target these deficiencies. This is the goal of the ADAPT-DM framework. One specific limitation of behavioral measures is that they are limited in their ability to discriminate performance within the "good" or "bad" performance categories for decision making. For example, an expert and a journeyman may both reach a good decision; however, the amount of effort (e.g., speed and flexibility) required for this level of achievement might differ significantly (Klein and Hoffman 1992). Time measures can typically capture a portion of this; however, they do not gauge internal states, such as workload, that might be critical factors when performing in novel or stressful situations. An expert who is not only performing well but has reached a certain level of ease and automaticity will be more prepared than a journeyman who is performing well but is using every available cognitive resource to achieve this level of performance. The journeyman may need more practice to maintain high performance under high stress levels in the field. It is thus necessary to understand the underlying cognitive states of the trainee, which both affect learning and are indicators of learning effectiveness, to comprehensively diagnose DM expertise and performance.

With the emergence of neurophysiological and physiological measurement technology that allows for real-time assessment of perceptual and cognitive processing, these unobservable processes become accessible. Specifically, some cognitive states that are measurable via electroencephalography (EEG), including workload and engagement, can provide neurophysiological measures of the unobservable aspects of DM skill development (Dorneich et al. 2007; Levonian 1972). *Table 2* outlines specific cognitive states that generally negatively affect the readiness for training by reducing attentional resources that facilitate learning and retention. Thus, it may be possible to utilize certain neurophysiological cognitive state metrics to detect issues with readiness to learn during DM performance:

- *Workload:* High cognitive workload is expected when performing in a knowledge-based control mode because no automaticity guides the process (Berka et al. 2007; Klein and Hoffman 1992). In rule-based control mode, rules are consciously retrieved from memory and applied to gathered information, also causing increased cognitive processing demands. Experts using skill-based DM, however, employ automated routines that require fewer cognitive resources. Thus, it is expected that the assessment of cognitive workload can contribute to the identification of the trainee's control mode.
- *Engagement:* Because of high task demands, novice and journeyman trainees are expected to exhibit higher levels of engagement than expert trainees because studies have shown a trend for decreasing EEG engagement with increasing task proficiency (Berka et al. 2007; Stevens, Galloway, and Berka 2007).
- *Distraction:* Distraction is a state characterized by a lack of clear and orderly thought and behavior, where a trainee becomes involved somewhere other than the cognitive tasks of interest

(Poythress et al. 2006). Expert performers have an exhaustive mental model of the task or situation so that very few situations cause distraction. Confusion is one element of distraction. In rule-based decision makers, confusion may stem from the conscious selection of rules and difficulties in applying them to the situation at hand. Naïve trainees are expected to show relatively high levels of confusion because their mental models are more likely to be incorrect or insufficient so that new situations may cause a mismatch.

- *Drowsiness:* Sleep disorders are common and can have deleterious effects on performance (Berka et al. 2004, 2005; Neri et al. 2007). In fact, loss of sleep can accumulate over time and result in a "sleep debt," which can lead to impairments in alertness, memory, and decision making. Individuals with chronic accumulation of fatigue are often unaware of the impact on their performance.

Eye tracking metrics provide a physiological measure with the granularity necessary to understand why DM-related performance failures occur to effectively adapt training. In particular, eye tracking offers an additional set of behavioral-based metrics to aid in assessing the information processing of individuals as it relates to perception. Toward this level of assessment, the following eye tracking metrics have been validated as providing information on perceptual processes (Hyönä, Radach, and Deubel 2003):

- *Number of overall fixations:* Inversely correlated with search efficiency.
- *Gaze percent on Areas of Interests (AOIs):* Longer gazes are equated with importance or difficulty of information extraction.
- *Mean fixation duration:* Longer fixations are equated with difficulty of extracting information.
- *Number of fixations on AOIs:* Reflects the importance of each area.

Thus, beyond traditional DM performance-based metrics, neurophysiological and physiological metrics can be used to provide an assessment of the unobservable aspects of DM skills development.

ADAPT-DM diagnosis component

The next component of the ADAPT-DM framework is the diagnosis component. ADAPT-DM diagnoses root causes in performance deficiencies and inefficiencies based on three important factors associated with DM skill development:

1. *DM performance:* The diagnosis component can use performance outcome (e.g., speed, accuracy,

efficiency, and planning; Elliot et al. 2007) and eye tracking (e.g., number of overall fixations, gaze percentage on AOIs, mean fixation duration, number of fixations on AOIs; Hyona, Radach, and Deubel 2003) data to assess whether a trainee is collecting appropriate information, considering and understanding information appropriately, selecting good decision options, and appropriately executing these options.

2. *Learning state:* To ensure feedback and facilitate effective performance improvements, it is essential to ensure that trainees are operating in an effective learning state. The diagnosis component can use EEG-based metrics (e.g., workload, engagement, distraction, drowsiness; Dorneich et al. 2007; Levonian 1972) to ensure that the trainee's learning state remains at adequate levels to promote learning.

3. *Expertise:* Performance may not provide sufficient granularity to drive precise adaptations. A trainee can perform well but be using every spare resource, have inefficient performance, and substantial room for improvement in terms of strategies used. Additionally, performers operating at different expertise levels commit errors for different reasons. Thus, the diagnosis component assesses expertise to allow for more precise adaptations to be made.

Expertise is the most challenging of these skills to diagnose. To truly understand why trainees are performing as they are, one must take into account expertise level. Reason (1990) identified typical performance characteristics and failure modes related to the SRK levels (Rasmussen 1983) of cognitive control associated with varying expertise. These characteristics and failure modes *(Table 3)* can be used to diagnose deficiencies with respect to expertise level and select effective adaptations. However, given the multifaceted nature of expertise, it cannot be diagnosed by merely looking at a small subset of performance measures. Instead, it is necessary (though challenging) to consider several aspects of performance and cognitive state. The Automated Expert Modeling for Automated Student Evaluation (AEMASE) process can be used to support such diagnosis (Abbott 2006).

AEMASE is a process for subject matter experts to rapidly create and update their own models of normative behavior (Abbott 2006). First, examples of task behavior are recorded in a training simulator. The examples may be either good or bad behavior performed by either students or subject matter experts, but the examples must be accurately graded by a subject matter expert. Second, machine learning algorithms are

Table 3. Typical performance characteristics and failure modes related to the SRK (Reason 1990).

Expertise level	Typical control mode	Performance characteristics	Failure modes

Expert	Skill based	Errors occur during routine action
		Attention during errors is not directed at task at hand
		Errors occur while applying known schemata
		Errors are "strong but wrong" and predicable
		Error numbers may be high, but error/opportunity ratio is small
		Low to moderate influence of (mostly intrinsic) factors
		Error detection is usually fairly rapid and effective
		Knowledge of change is not accessed at proper time
			Inattention
			  Double-capture slips
			  Omissions following interruptions
			  Reduced intentionality
			  Perceptual confusions
			
			  Interference errors
			Overattention
			  Omissions
			  Repetitions
			  Reversals

Journeyman	Rule based	Errors occur during problem-solving activities
		Attention during errors is directed at problem-related issues
		Errors occur while employing stored rules
		Errors are "strong but wrong" and predicable
		Error numbers may be high, but error/opportunity ratio is small
		Low to moderate influence of (mostly intrinsic) factors
		Error detection is difficult and often requires external intervention
		Changes in the environment are anticipated but when and how is not known
			Misapplication of good rules
			  First exceptions
			  Countersigns and nonsigns
			  Informational overload
			  Rule strength
			
			  General rules
			  Redundancy
			
			  Rigidity
			
			Application of bad rules
			  Encoding deficiencies
			  Action deficiencies
			  Wrong rules
			  Inelegant rules
			  Inadvisable rules

• Novice	Knowledge-based	Errors occur during problem-solving activities Attention during errors is directed at problem-related issues Errors occur while employing limited, conscious processes Errors occur with variable predictability Error numbers are small, but high error/opportunity ratio Influence of extrinsic situational factors on errors is high Error detection is difficult and often requires external intervention Changes in the environment are not prepared for and not anticipated	Selectivity Workspace limitations Out of sight out of mind Confirmation bias Overconfidence Biased reviewing Illusory correlation Halo effects Problems with causality Problems with complexity Problems with delayed feedback Insufficient consideration of processes in time Thematic vagabonding

applied to create a behavior model. Creating the model requires selecting the data fields that best distinguish between good and bad behavior (feature selection) and applying an algorithm to generalize assessments of observed behavior to assessments of new (potentially novel) student behavior. An appropriate algorithm must be selected for each student performance metric, depending on the type and amount of example data available. Third, student behavior is assessed using the behavior model. As each student executes a simulation-based training scenario, his or her behavior is compared with the model for each performance metric to identify

and target training to individual deficiencies. The model determines whether student behavior is more similar to good or bad behavior from its knowledge base. Initially, the knowledge base is sparse, and incorrect assessments may be common. However, an instructor may override incorrect assessments. AE-MASE learns from this interaction, so the model improves over time. Real-time student assessment can be implemented by continuously reevaluating the model throughout a scenario to support dynamic scenario adaptation. In a previous pilot study, AE-MASE achieved a high degree of agreement with a

human grader (89%) in assessing tactical air engagement scenarios. In a subsequent study of E2 Naval Flight Officer tasks, AEMASE achieved 80%–95% agreement with a human grader on a range of metrics (Stevens et al. 2009). AEMASE is useful when data collection for a metric can be automated, but the metric is difficult to assess (i.e., grade performance) because the desired value for the metric depends on what is happening in the scenario, or there are several equally valid values. AEMASE can support real-time assessment and scenario adaptation by operationalizing complex or "fuzzy" assessments.

Based on a combination of relevant performance and state metrics, AEMASE can thus be used to determine the level of expertise to which a trainee's overall performance and state are most similar. This comparison can be made in near real time, thereby feeding the resulting categorization back to the ADAPT-DM diagnostic component.

ADAPT-DM adaptation component

The final component of the ADAPT-DM framework is the adaptation component, which precisely adapts training to support individualized DM skill development, based on the outcome of the diagnostic component. It uses a hierarchical adaptation strategy to adapt training without disrupting learning. Specifically, Bruner's (1973) constructivist theory can be formulated into a hierarchical adaptation strategy by applying the following principles:

- First, consider the student's willingness and ability to learn (i.e., cognitive readiness, as assessed via EEG-based cognitive state metrics). This adaptation stage should aim to enhance learning state to ensure learning can occur and mitigate any negative learning states, such as drowsiness and distraction.
- Second, structure training so that concepts can be easily grasped by trainees and skills deficiencies can be addressed (i.e., spiral organization). This adaption stage should aim to improve knowledge and skills to allow development of skilled performance and prevent trainees from practicing bad habits or perpetuating incorrect performance or error patterns.
- Third, once performance is at target performance levels, design difficult cases that facilitate extrapolation and fill any gaps in training (i.e., encourage trainees to go beyond the information given). This adaptation stage should aim to increase expertise levels to boost efficiency and effectiveness of performance by providing trainees with practice opportunities and instruction de-
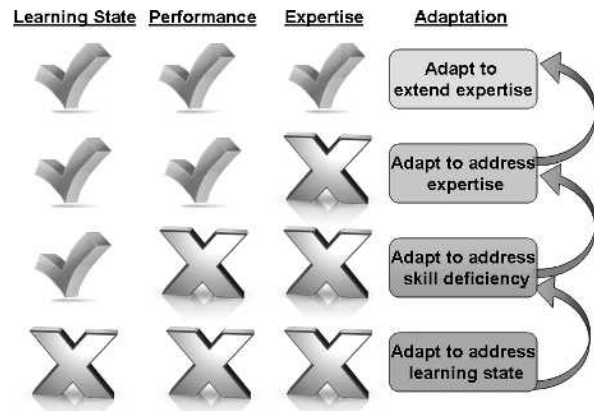

Figure 3. Adaptation goals with respect to diagnosed problem areas.

signed to move them up the expertise continuum to skilled performance *(Figure 3)*.

A generalizable adaptation matrix was constructed detailing adaptation strategies that can be used to address each stage in the hierarchical adaptation strategy *(Table 4)*.

Case study: Submarine navigation, contact evaluation task

As a proof-of-concept, the ADAPT-DM framework was conceptually applied to submarine navigation, particularly the contact evaluation task, which is a critical decision point in navigation. Based on a task analysis, it was determined that the contact evaluation task *(Figure 4)* entails the following perceptual, cognitive, and response components. *Perceptual components:* (1) scan the radar display for contacts; (2) detect contacts; (3) scan for other relevant cues to assess the contact. *Cognitive components:* (4) assess contact relationship to own ship; (5) use tools to aid in assessing contact relationship; (6) decide whether contact is of enough concern to monitor. *Response components:* (7) hook and monitor contact; (8) communicate contact information to the Contact Coordinator (CC).

Based on the task analysis, behavioral performance metrics (including eye tracking metrics) were identified for all tasks within the task flow *(Table 5)*. In addition, EEG-based cognitive state metrics were identified to assess trainee state *(Table 2)*.

Based on the performance metrics identified, the next step is diagnosing the adequacy of DM performance. While many of the metrics have straightforward thresholds, which divide good and poor performance (e.g., relevant contact hooked or not), several of the metrics have complex performance thresholds (e.g., scan data). It was determined that AEMASE machine

Table 4. Adaptation strategies.

| Performance	Expertise	Diagnosis	Real time adaptation	Future adaptation
Good	Expert	Criterion	Increase difficulty	Once criterion met for highest level of difficulty, move on to new training objective
	Expert	Optimal learning state	None	Continue practice at this level of difficulty
	Journeyman	Optimal learning state	None	Continue practice at this level of difficulty
	Journeyman	Nonoptimal learning: drowsy	Increase pace of training	Give trainee a break, encourage to get up and walk around
			Novel situation to challenge	Increase difficulty of next scenario
	Journeyman	Nonoptimal learning: distracted	Auditory cue to bring back into focus	Increase difficulty of next event
	Novice	Nonoptimal learning: drowsy	Give positive feedback until not drowsy: "You are scanning relevant areas, keep up the good work!"	Give trainee a break, encourage to get up and walk around
				Continue practice at this level of difficulty
	Novice	Nonoptimal learning: distracted	Auditory cue to bring back into focus	Continue practice at this level of difficulty
Bad	Journeyman	Skill deficiency	Hints to abbreviate process or increase efficiency of performance	Decrease difficulty of next event
			Correction of error patterns/bad rules/ misapplication of good rules	
	Journeyman	Nonoptimal learning: drowsy	Cue to wake them up	Give trainee a break, encourage to get up and walk around
			Increase volume of auditory cues	Continue practice at this level of difficulty
			Increase intensity of visual cues	
	Journeyman	Nonoptimal learning: distracted	Auditory cue to bring back into focus— feedback relevant to performance decrements	Continue practice at this level of difficulty
	Novice	Skill deficiency	Scaffolding to assist in building rules (training wheels, faded feedback, etc.)	Decrease difficulty of next event
			Feedback to deal with typical failure modes	
	Novice	Nonoptimal learning: drowsy	Give feedback on errors until not drowsy: "You are spending too much time on irrelevant areas."	Give trainee a break, encourage to get up and walk around
				Decrease difficulty of next event
	Novice	Nonoptimal learning: distracted	Auditory cue to bring back into focus— feedback relevant to performance decrements	Decrease difficulty of next event
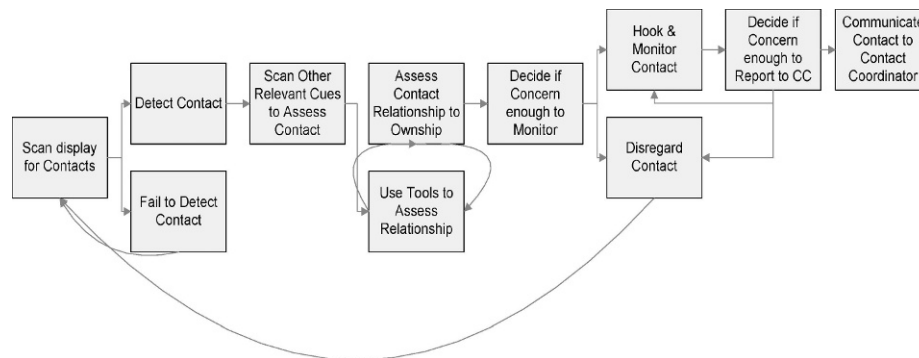
Figure 4. Contact evaluation task.

Table 5. Behavioral performance metrics for the contact evaluation task.

Task	Metrics
Scan radar screen for contacts	Appropriate view/scale of Field of View (FOV)
	% of relevant areas scanned
	% of areas scanned that were relevant
	Time until each/all relevant areas scanned
	Overall fixation duration on individual AOIs and screen
	Average fixation duration (on relevant and irrelevant)
	No. of times scan pattern changes directions (and moves significant length)
Detect contact	Target fixated (yes/no)
	Time until first target fixation
	No. of target fixations
	Duration of target fixations (average duration, total duration)
Scan relevant cues needed to assess contact	% of areas scanned that are relevant (cues and contact)
	Appropriate view/scale of FOV
	% of relevant areas scanned
	% of areas scanned that were relevant
	Time until each/all relevant areas scanned
	Overall fixation duration on individual AOIs and screen
	Average fixation duration (on relevant and irrelevant)
	No. of times scan pattern changes directions (and moves significant length)—fixation pattern on contact, on cue, on contact, on cue
Assess contact relationship to ship	No. of target fixations
	Duration of target fixations (average duration, total duration)
Use tools to assess contact relationship to ship (e.g., threat rings)	Appropriate tool use (occurrence and duration of use)
	No. of fixations on tools
Decide whether contact is of concern enough to monitor	Reaction time (time from detection/fixation until response)
	No. of target fixations
	Duration of target fixations (average duration, total duration)
Decide whether contact is of concern enough to report to CC	Reaction time (time from detection/fixation until response)
	No. of target fixations
	Duration of target fixations (average duration, total duration)
Hook contact/not	Response accuracy: contact hooked or not
	Response time (time from start to completion of response)
Communicate contact to CC/not	Response accuracy: Occurrence of communication to CC (either measured via instructor event-based checklist or voice recognition/Sandi software) and whether contact relevant
	Response time (time from start to completion of response)

learning models (Abbott 2006) could be used to compare performance on these metrics to expert and novice models to effectively assess performance. Each metric was thus defined by the behavioral or physiological variables for expert or novice comparison, the contextual variables that determine appropriate behavior or expected physiological response, and the algorithm proposed for modeling expected behavior from the context *(Table 6)*.

Most of the proposed metrics deal with the allocation of attention over time. These metrics can be implemented with occupancy grids. An occupancy grid is a two-dimensional histogram that accumulates the amount of time spent in each cell of a grid. It is weighted to reflect the recent past using a decay function. The visualization of an occupancy grid is similar to heat maps used in eye tracking studies. However, the purpose of the occupancy grid is not mainly to produce a visualization; rather it is to create a quantifiable similarity metric for expert versus trainee attention allocation. The relevance of a context is determined by a similarity metric over contextual variables, such as the positions of a submarine and contacts, and by ocean currents, etc. The similarity between expert and trainee actions is the cross product (or area of overlap) between the expert and trainee occupancy grids.

In the example occupancy grid in *Figure 5*, a trainee student (S, Left) is navigating toward a port in the presence of other surface vessels. The knowledge base (1-3, Right) contains recordings of previous expert scenario executions. The knowledge base is searched for relevant contexts (1 and 2, highlighted in green), defined by similar positioning of the submarine and other vessels, currents, etc.

After selecting relevant contexts 1 and 2 *(Figure 5)*, AEMASE determines whether the trainee's actions are similar to any performed by an expert. The red areas

Table 6. Metrics proposed for AEMASE evaluation.

Metric	Description	Context	Algorithm
Metrics collected from the simulation			
Field of view and zoom scale of radar operator interface	Radar operators control display settings specifying area and scale. Maintaining overall situational awareness requires adjusting the settings to maintain the "big picture" while frequently zooming in to view important detail.	Position of the submarine in the port, presence of tracks, and distracters.	Occupancy grid.
Reaction time for appearance of new contact	Radar operators must maintain situational awareness to react promptly to new radar returns. A delayed reaction reduces the amount of time to take measures in response to the new contact.	The position of the new contact relative to the carrier. Other contacts or navigation by own ship may also influence the allowable reaction time.	One-sided Gaussian distribution of expert reaction times, which captures the proportion of experts requiring at least x seconds to respond.
Metrics collected from eye tracking			
Percentage of relevant areas scanned	This metric quantifies whether the student is monitoring all areas that an expert would monitor. It requires correlating the view area (determined by radar scope settings) with the onscreen gaze position.	The relevance of areas is conditioned on the terrain (contour of the ocean floor or inlet). Relevance also depends on entities in the scenario, including their locations, attributes, and actions.	Using the occupancy grid, this is the area of the overlap between student and expert scan areas, divided by the expert's total scan area.
Percentage of areas scanned that were relevant	This metric quantifies whether the student is spending an inordinate amount of time and effort monitoring areas that are unlikely to be salient. The hypothesis is that experts know which cues in the environment are most salient, while novices' patterns of attention allocation are more randomized.	The relevance of areas is determined as before, by retrieving examples of expert attention allocation in similar contexts.	Using the occupancy grid, this is the area of the overlap between student and expert scan areas, divided by the student's total scan area.

show where the trainee student (S, Left) or experts (1,2 Center) have been looking recently. S*1 and S*2 are the dot product (or overlap) of trainee student attention with expert attention 1 and 2, respectively. S*1 (highlighted in green) has the larger area. However, S*1 covers only a portion of 1, so the trainee is neglecting some important areas.

The composite diagnosis is driven by an expertise model that integrates the AEMASE metrics with eye tracking and EEG data to assess trainee proficiency. The first step in this data integration process was to
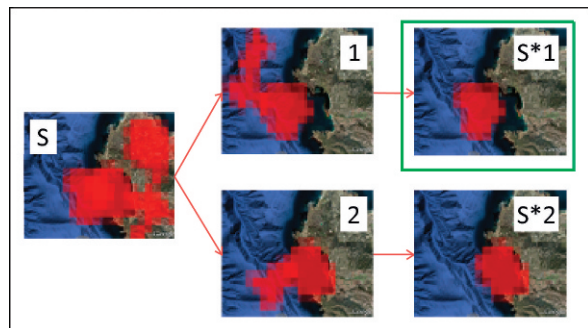

Figure 5. Comparing expert versus student actions with occupancy grids.

identify a minimal set of skills necessary to characterize trainee performance and expertise. Because trainees learn a progression of skills throughout their training, metrics that are appropriate for novices might be irrelevant for experts (and vice versa). Through the skills identification process, relevant metrics can be identified for trainees at each level in the training progression. Then Principal Component Analysis (PCA) can then be used to identify skill dimensions that reflect each proficiency level.

Table 7 shows hypothetical data as an example. In the example, three metrics have been applied to four trainees. The metrics include: ScanRelevance, which is the overlap between expert and trainee occupancy grids from eye tracking data; RadarZoom, which is the overlap between expert and trainee occupancy grids from radar center of view/zoom settings, and ResponseTime, which is the number of seconds from the appearance of a new track until it is hooked by the trainee. *Figure 6* shows a scatter plot for each pairing of two variables with the hypothetical data.

The values for RadarZoom and ScanRelevance are strongly correlated; they lie nearly on a straight line. This means either can be accurately predicted from the

Table 7. Hypothetical metric data.

Trainee	ScanRelevance	RadarView	ResponseTime
1	.80	.75	8
2	.50	.55	4
3	.49	.40	7
4	.74	.81	3

other, so there is no need for both. Thus—in this hypothetical sample—trainees who correctly select radar settings also tend to focus visual attention on the most important areas. ResponseTime, in contrast, is not strongly correlated with either of the other metrics. From these data, PCA would identify two dominant dimensions: The first would correspond closely with both ScanRelevance and RadarView, and the second with ResponseTime.[1]

The second step of the expertise model assesses general expertise. For this aspect of the diagnosis, an instructor assesses the general expertise of each trainee by watching the trainee execute a task scenario. A model of the instructor's assessment is trained using multiple linear regression and the trainee's skill ratings as predictors. Models for different expertise levels (i.e., novice, journeyman, expert) use different skills (Klein and Hoffman 1992), so the expertise model is particular to each skill level. The model also reveals the importance of each skill in the instructor's general assessment of expertise. The model is intended to yield several insights:

- The system simulates the instructor's assessment of general expertise of trainees in the future.
- If a skill does not contribute significantly to overall expertise, it might be because the skill is not very important. Alternately, it might be that the selected task scenarios do not exercise the skill, and additional scenario development is needed.

- If the model does not fit the instructor assessments very well, it may be that the set of metrics (and physiological metrics) is insufficient, and new metrics should be added. Or, overall expertise might be a nonlinear function of the skills. In this case nonlinear models (e.g., neural networks, support vector machines, etc.) could be explored. Alternately, the instructor's assessments might simply be subjective and unreliable.
- Creating models for several instructors would allow for determination of whether instructors are consistent with each other in assessing expertise and placing value on particular skills.

The expertise model was explored by prototyping the algorithms for the model. The prototype was implemented using synthetic data, so the associated results (such as figures showing the contribution of specific metrics to the expertise model) are notional and serve only to illustrate the expertise model concept. In developing the prototype, we simulated a subject population of 75 students grouped into three levels of expertise (novice, intermediate, and expert) for the set of metrics presented in *Table 8*, which lists the population mean and standard deviation for each metric broken down by level of expertise. The units for each metric in the synthetic data set are not specified (e.g., negative values have no special significance).

In the prototype, PCA was performed on the data for each level of expertise independently to explore the hypothesis that different skills are developed at each level of expertise. *Figure 7* shows a "scree plot" for components of variance (skills) for intermediate-level students. This plot shows that most of the variance from the 14 original metrics is explained by only the first 2 principal components (52%), and the first 4 capture 80%, while the first 6 metrics capture 90% of the metrics. Thus it is possible to construct new composite metrics to simplify trainee assessment.
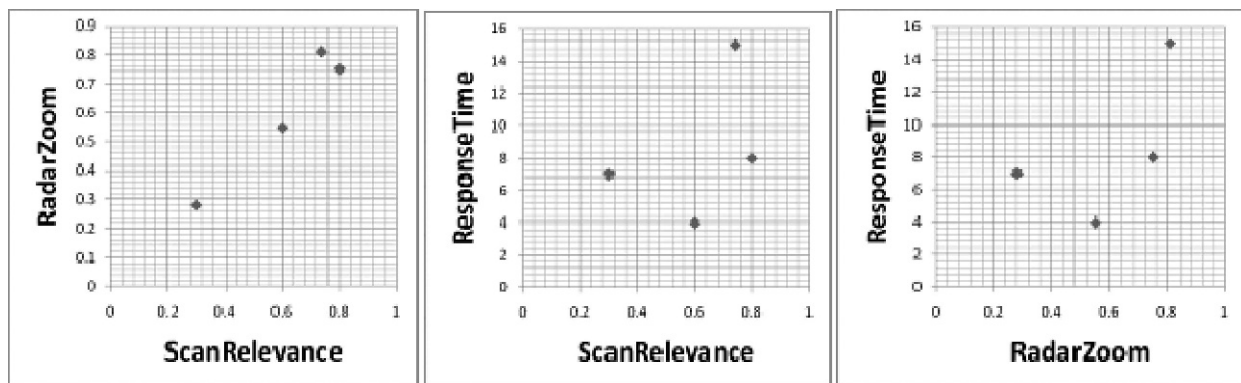

Figure 6. Scatter plot for each pairing of two variables with the hypothetical data.

Table 8. Synthetic data.

	Mean			Standard deviation		
	Novice	Intermediate	Expert	Novice	Intermediate	Expert
RADARView	1.05	4.63	7.87	2.06	1.67	1.72
ReactionTime	3.14	4.92	7.14	1.18	1.73	1.89
ResponseTime	6.04	8.01	10.19	2.42	2.15	2.19
Workload	10.60	−1.17	−16.71	2.31	2.08	2.90
Engagement	2.01	2.12	2.05	0.49	0.39	0.62
Distraction	0.83	0.90	1.25	1.27	0.82	1.07
Drowsiness	3.55	4.27	3.48	1.85	1.96	1.38
GazeCoverage	13.30	26.76	61.92	3.85	4.35	3.84
GazeRelevance	15.71	41.79	96.01	4.52	4.11	4.67
GazeTargetTime	19.21	57.07	65.92	4.34	3.11	4.47
GazeTargetDuration	1.46	0.72	−7.45	1.67	1.30	1.47
GazeToolFixations	11.42	−16.52	−15.48	4.47	2.94	3.41
BlinkRate	10.93	10.05	12.20	3.06	2.54	2.54
PupilSize	5.05	5.38	4.85	1.26	1.21	1.39

As such, composite metrics were extracted. Each of the principal components is a composite metric, which is a combination of the 14 original metrics. But in most of the composite metrics, only a few of the original metrics have significant influence. For the intermediate trainee in the synthetic data set, most of the weight in the first principal component is assigned to Distraction. Metrics that do not contribute significantly to the composite metrics may be discarded entirely. *Figure 8* shows the original 14 metrics projected onto the three first principal components, which reveals which of the original metrics best align with the principal components. This information is used to derive meaningful names for the composite metrics.

Based on the aforementioned three-tier diagnoses (DM performance, learning state, and expertise), it was then necessary to identify how these streams of data would be integrated to identify adaptation trigger points. First, the diagnosis engine would continuously assess cognitive state based on neurophysiological measures, including levels of workload, engagement, distraction, and drowsiness. These assessments would be based on predefined thresholds and evaluate adequacy of cognitive learning state. Second, the diagnosis engine would assess predefined behavioral and physiological (i.e., eye tracking) performance metrics associated with each step in the DM process (see description of the SHOR DM model; Wohl 1981). Third, the diagnostic engine would identify the level of expertise the trainee's performance and state that most closely matches based on a combination of all relevant performance and state metrics. Based on outputs from these two steps, the diagnostic engine would place the trainee within one of three categories:
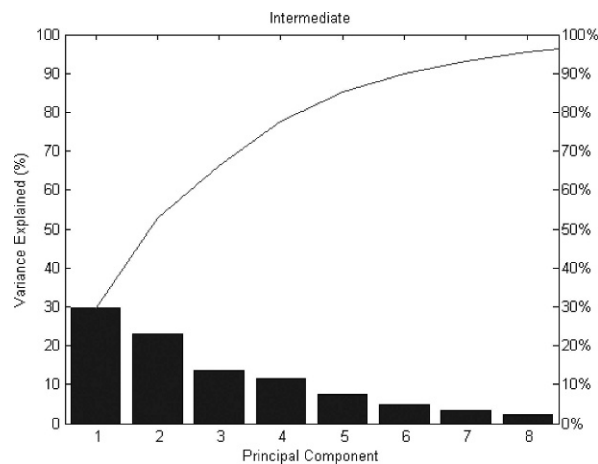

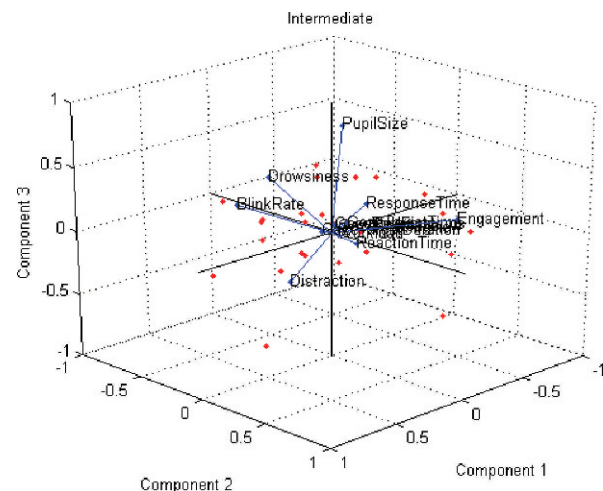Figure 7. Scree plot for intermediate level of expertise.

Figure 8. The original 14 metrics projected onto the three first principal components, which correspond roughly with engagement, drowsiness, and radar view settings.
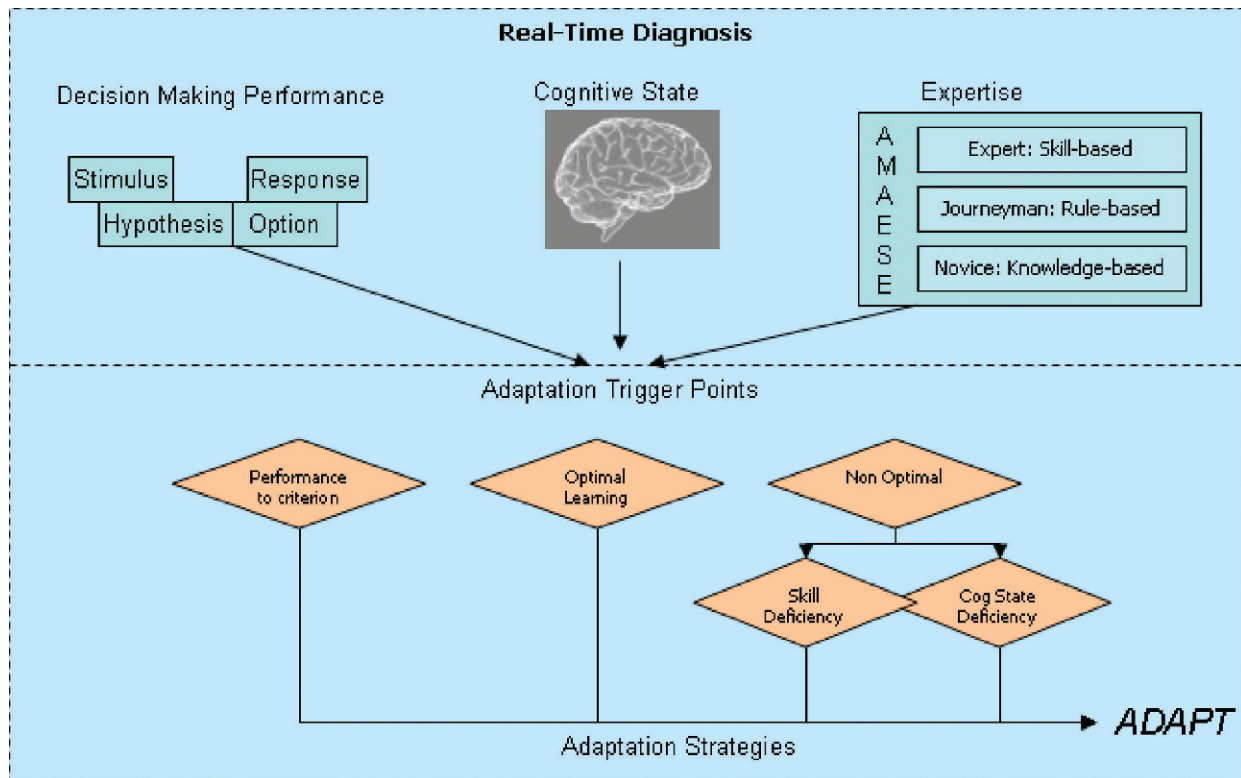
Figure 9. ADAPT-DM real-time diagnosis concept.

1. *Performance to criterion* in which the trainee's performance is effective and efficient across a broad range of situations,
2. *Optimal learning state* in which a trainee's performance is effective; however, practice is necessary to increase efficiency and build experience base,
3. *Nonoptimal learning state* in which the trainee is having performance or state issues that need remediation or cognitive state issues that need mitigation.

Students in the last category would be further categorized based on performance and state indicators to pinpoint the root cause of nonoptimal learning state, specifically identifying whether there was a skill deficiency or a cognitive state deficiency of drowsiness or distraction. Based on these categorizations and the context-specific performance measures, appropriate adaptations would be triggered *(Figure 9).*

Table 9 presents the generalizable diagnosis matrix that shows precisely how the streams of data will be combined and resulting diagnoses.

Conclusions

This effort has resulted in conceptualization of the ADAPT-DM framework for supporting precision training, which is adaptive to trainees' differing needs, skill proficiency levels, learning states, and expertise levels. Implementation of this framework into a training system should accelerate DM skill development by

- Developing a comprehensive picture of a trainee's knowledge, skills, and cognitive state through continuous performance and state measurement.
- Using sophisticated models of expert and novice performance to evaluate expertise, along with performance and learning state, to understand key deficiencies and opportunities to accelerate learning.
- Ensuring an optimal mix of experiences and instruction (such as real-time feedback, real-time scenario modification, and automated cueing and scaffolding strategies) to rapidly develop robust and effective DM skills.

Through root cause analysis based on physiological and neurophysiological data, ADAPT-DM goes beyond simply assessing whether trainees made good decisions. Process level measures become feasible, enabling instructors to pinpoint where in the DM process breakdowns occurred. The expected benefits of a system based on the ADAPT-DM framework are

- Training is compressed and accelerated because the system detects and adapts to the acquisition of specific skills, learning state, and expertise.

Table 9. General diagnoses.

Performance	Workload/difficulty	Performance measures				Diagnosis
		Engagement	Distraction	Drowsiness	Expertise	
Good	Low	High	Low	Low	Expert	Criterion
					Journeyman	Optimal learning state
					Novice	
		Low	Low	High	Expert	Criterion
					Journeyman	Nonoptimal learning: drowsy
					Novice	
		Low	High	Low	Expert	Criterion
					Journeyman	Nonoptimal learning: distracted
					Novice	
	High	High	Low	Low	Expert	Optimal learning state
					Journeyman	Optimal learning state
					Novice	
		Low	Low	High	Expert	
					Journeyman	Nonoptimal learning: drowsy
					Novice	Nonoptimal learning: drowsy
		Low	High	Low	Expert	
					Journeyman	Nonoptimal learning: distracted
					Novice	Nonoptimal learning: distracted
Bad	Low	High	Low	Low	Expert	
					Journeyman	Skill deficiency
					Novice	Skill deficiency
		Low	Low	High	Expert	
					Journeyman	Nonoptimal learning: drowsy
					Novice	Nonoptimal learning: drowsy
		Low	High	Low	Expert	
					Journeyman	Nonoptimal learning: distracted
					Novice	Nonoptimal learning: distracted
	High	High	Low	Low	Expert	
					Journeyman	Skill deficiency
					Novice	Skill deficiency
		Low	Low	High	Expert	
					Journeyman	Nonoptimal learning: drowsy
					Novice	Nonoptimal learning: drowsy
		Low	High	Low	Expert	
					Journeyman	Nonoptimal learning: distracted
					Novice	Nonoptimal learning: distracted

- Trainees are better prepared for live training and operations by ensuring an optimal experience base.
- Seamless integration with existing DM trainers. ❏

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Endnotes

[1]It would also identify a third dimension but with a very small eigenvalue, indicating that the third dimension is negligible.

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